

Welcome to the **August 31, 2006** posting to the Education about the Environment Interchange listserve! Any questions, issues, suggestions, or postings should be directed to Allison Brody at: allison.brody@unlv.edu

News/Announcements

Current statistics for the www.enviroedexchange.org website: Since it was launched on August 14, 2006, the Field Trip Resource Guide has been accessed an astounding 362 times by people entering search criteria. If you would like field trip information for your site and/or organization posted on the site, please send information to: allison.brody@unlv.edu or fax to (702) 895-5166, Attn: Allison Brody.

Phil Aurit with the Bureau of Reclamation needs suggestions on where he can hold a small conference in February. CAST for Kids, a fishing event for disabled children, is searching for a conference site in Las Vegas that: 1) offers lodging and a small conference room in close proximity; 2) can accommodate about 50 attendees; 3) is near the Las Vegas Strip; 4) offers rooms at less than \$112 per day (federal per diem rate); and 5) offers shuttle service from the airport (if possible). If you have any information or suggestions, please send them to: paurit@lc.usbr.gov.

California's Invasive Plant Council is offering "Tools for Early Detection," a Wildland Weeds Field Course. The course will take place at Audubon Canyon Ranch's Bouverie Preserve in Sonoma, California, on Wednesday, October 4, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The course is designed for both newcomers and experienced staff in the field of invasive plant work. Participants will gain hands-on experience in early detection techniques, a greater understanding of invasive plant biology, and the skills to incorporate early detection into a comprehensive land-management plan. On-line registration with a secure credit card system is available at www.cal-ipc.org/fieldcourses/index.php.

Environmental Education Methods (OUT8160) will be offered September 11-14, 2006, at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. The course uses effective planning and evaluation strategies to target specific resource management issues to the right audiences. For more information, contact Georgia Jeppesen at georgia_jeppesen@fws.gov or (304) 876-7388.

Calendar

9/8	Partners for Education about the Environment meeting	9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. NDF conference room, Vegas and Decatur.
9/12	CHOLLA meeting	1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Room 125, UNLV's Paradise Campus (Tropicana and Swenson)
9/23	National Public Lands Day Clean-up Event	Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. For details and to sign up, visit www.getoutdoorsnevada.org
9/30	National Public Lands Day Clean-up Event	Lake Mead National Recreation Area. For details and to sign up, visit www.getoutdoorsnevada.org .

10/10-10/14	North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Annual Conference	St. Paul, MN; http://naaee.org/
10/10-10/13	11th Annual Nevada Weed Management Association Meeting	Red Lion Hotel and Casino, Elko, NV. All member, non-member and vendor registration forms can be found at the Nevada Department of Agriculture-Plant Industry Website: http://agri.state.nv.us/PLANT_NoxWeeds_index.htm
10/21	First Annual Arrowhead Trail Day	8:00 a.m. A day of outdoor recreation (OHV, bikes, hikes, horse riding) as this group works toward the goal of seeking designation as a Backcountry Byway. For info, call Mark Trinko at 798-5003 or Ed Dodrill at 645-1791, Trinko@cox.net
10/28	Make A Difference Day	For details, visit: www.getoutdoorsnevada.org
11/7-11/11	National Association for Interpretation Annual Conference	Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, NM, www.interpnet.com/niw2006/index.htm
11/10-11/12	Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (AEOE) Southern Fall Conference.	Indian Cove Group Campgrounds at Joshua Tree National Park www.aeoe.org .
11/28-11/30	Workshop on Collaborative Watershed-scale Management & Research in the Great Basin	Silver Legacy Hotel, Reno, NV. For info and registration, contact Dr. Jeanne Chambers, Research Ecologist, USDA-Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, jchambers@fs.fed.us
1/13/07 and 1/20/07	Mojave Max PDE course	8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Red Rock Canyon NCA. Contact: Stacy Irvin, Project Coordinator, Mojave Max Education Project, 702-258-7097
1/26 - 1/27/2007	CCSD Math/Science Teachers Conference (K-12)	Green Valley High School, Henderson, NV (500 people attended last year)

Resources

The Nature Conservancy presents the Nature Stories audio podcast, audio downloads of great stories and great places. Each week, Nature Stories will offer a new tale of people's connections with the natural world as an audio download. Many of the stories will be drawn from an upcoming public radio series, Stories from the Heart of the Land, which the Conservancy is developing for launch in 2007. Currently online are features focusing on fire, frogs, fishing culture, and more. <http://www.nature.org/podcasts/>

Narrated by Alanis Morissette and Keanu Reeves, The Great Warming is a film about climate change, which reveals how a changing climate affects the lives of people in a variety of places around the world. The website includes a trailer, links to books, and background information. <http://www.thegreatwarming.com>.

Mojave Desert Discovery and Issues, a resource guide about the Mojave Desert ecosystem for teachers of upper elementary students, is now available for free download for you and for teachers at:

<http://home.nps.gov/jotr/forteachers/lessonplansandteacherguides.htm>. Teachers can access at www.nps.gov/jotr/forteachers/lessonplansandteacherguides.htm

The Tools of Change website, founded on the principles of community-based social marketing, offers specific tools, case studies, and a planning guide for helping people take actions and adopt habits that promote health, safety, and environmental citizenship. <http://www.toolsofchange.com/English/firstsplit.asp>.

Need a creative way to recycle that mountain of plastic bags in your house? Check out: <http://www.bagbed.com/index.html>.

LESSON PLANET is a searchable guide to over 75,000 online lesson plans, reviewed and rated by experienced K-12 teachers. The site includes many biology and geography lessons. <http://www.lessonplanet.com/>

Articles/Info

See the attached MS Word document to read the results of the teacher survey conducted by the Public Lands Institute in conjunction with the Interagency Conservation Education and Interpretation Team and Partners for Education about the Environment. The document is entitled "Clark County School District Teacher Survey: Attitudes, Perceptions, Barriers, and Desires for Field Trip Experiences."

And, just when you thought the things were strange enough climate-wise: a manatee was spotted first swimming north up the Hudson River past Manhattan and Westchester County, then – astoundingly – in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, on August 24, 2006. This is the northernmost sighting of a manatee ever documented. The massive mammals are generally restricted to the warm waters of Florida and the Caribbean. The sighting is significant because it is further indication of drastically different water temperatures. And, of course, warmer waters fuel larger storms. For the full story, check out: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/25/us/25manatee.html?_r=1&oref=slogin